GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:210
ANSWERED ON:15.07.2002
ECONOMIC EXPLOITATION OF LABOURERS
PUSHPDAN SHAMBHUDAN GADHAVI

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the details of steps being taken by Government to check the economic exploitation of labourers in the country;

(b) the details of the industries against whom action is being taken for violating the labour laws during the last one year and thereafter; and

(c) the effective measures being taken or proposed to be taken to protect the interest of labourers in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN)

(a) to (c): The economic exploitation of labour in the country is checked through enactments and enforcement of a number of labour laws aimed at protecting and promoting the welfare, social security, safety and health of workers.
Labour being in the concurrent list, both the Central and State Governments are the appropriate governments to enact legislations. The organization of Chief Labour Commissioner (Central) is responsible for enforcement of the provisions of the labour laws in establishments under the Central Sphere whereas in the State Sphere the enforcement is secured through the State Labour Enforcement Machinery. The Inspecting Officers of Central Industrial Relating Machinery (CIRM) make regular and periodic inspections of establishments, take follow up action and where necessary file claims and prosecution cases against the defaulting employers. During the year 2001-2002, CIRM Officers carried out 34968 inspections rectified 360712 irregularities, launched 16040 prosecutions and secured 7475 convictions of defaulting employers.

The Government has initiated the process of labour reforms to meet the challenges of privatization, liberalization and globalization. Nontheless, the Government is also committed to safeguard the legitimate interests of workers during the course of labour reforms. With a view to suggest, rationalization of laws relating to labour in the organized sector and evolving an umbrella legislation for ensuring minimum level of protection to the workers in the unorganized sector, the Second National Commission on Labour has recently submitted its Report.